



Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Advent Midweek Service 3

December 16th, 2020

“Promises! Promises! Promises!”

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

RICK MELIUS

ELDER

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ACOLYTES

MIKE BEYER

CONGREGATIONAL CHAIRMAN

RICK MELIUS

HEAD ELDER

MARIE ROGERS

ORGANIST

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE 3: “PROMISES! PROMISES! PROMISES” (JOHN 14:1-3)

OPENING HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB 341

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: When my soul was embittered,

People: **When I was pricked in heart,**

Pastor: I was brutish and ignorant;

People: **I was like a beast toward You.**

Pastor: Nevertheless, I am continually with You;

People: **You hold my right hand.**

Pastor: You guide me with Your counsel,

People: **And afterward You will receive me to glory.**

Pastor: Whom have I in heaven but You?

People: **And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You.**

Pastor: My flesh and my heart may fail,

People: **But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

Pastor: For behold, those who are far from You shall perish;

People: **You put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to You.**

Pastor: But for me it is good to be near God;

People: **I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.**

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the **+** Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. AMEN

CONFESSIONS AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we beg You to never leave us or forsake. Continue to deliver us from the evil one who desires to separate us from Your steadfast love and presence. We implore You to pour upon us Your Holy Spirit so that we may see how we have abandoned You, forsaken You and ignored Your will and Word. Move us to repent of our sins and look forward to being in Your presence forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Father God, hear our confession for the sake of the One who is Present with us now.

Pastor: Merciful Father,

ALL: We confess that we do not live according to Your Word nor trust You to be among us and direct our every step. We attempt to take Satan on and overcome our sin and flesh. We implore You to help us come out of our sin and clothe us with the garments of salvation, won for us through Jesus Christ our Advent King—the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

Pastor: Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love! Out of that love He sent Jesus the Mighty Warrior to save us on Calvary's hill. Through His blood He guarantees our salvation and His presence promise among us. This evening, by faith we stand forgiven, restored and renewed to live new lives in His presence. Therefore, we proclaim to each other—

ALL: Christ saves you, rescues you and restores you! He promises to be with You always. Christ loves you and forgives you! Go in His peace!

HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

ALL: Let us pray. Lord God, in love You sent the Savior to be among us and deliver us from the clutches of the evil one, because we couldn't. In His perfect life, He kept the Law perfectly in our place and gave us life and salvation. Therefore, we pray O Lord, that by Your presence, providence and protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 18:10-13

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Jude 17-25

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Peter 3:3-13

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON HYMN

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

LSB 352

SERMON

“A Return Promised”

John 14: 1-3

OFFERING

HYMN

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

CM 6

French Carol – Public Domain

1. Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear. Refrain.

Refrain:

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

2. Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest,
Journey forth to Bethl’hem, find the lambkin blest.” Refrain.
3. From the eastern country came the kings afar,
Bearing gifts to Bethl’hem guided by a star. Refrain.
4. In Bethlehem they found them, Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger, watching the holy Child. Refrain.
5. Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
There was ne’er a place on earth so like paradise. Refrain.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: We see our mighty God in the most unlikely places—a child in a stable, a Man upon a cross, the Risen One bursting forth from an empty tomb. May God hear our prayers, because of the Savior Promised of old—Christ Jesus our Lord and King.

Pastor: Loving God, because of who You are, You chose us in love, in Christ, before the foundation of the world to be our Immanuel—God with Us.

People: We give thanks to You for Your Presence Promise for time and eternity. In Him we have the sure promise that He is with us always.

Pastor: Just God, grant Your Spirit to the nations, especially these United States, heal our division and unite us beneath the cross upon which You shed Your blood to restore us, unite us and forgive us.

People: By His Presence Promise we ask You to help us forgive those who hurt us and be forgiven by whom we have in carelessness hurt and harmed them.

Pastor: Faithful God, inspire all people by the Presence of the long-expected Savior, Jesus Christ, the One who remains with us when everyone else abandons us.

People: By His mighty deliverance move us, we pray to grounded in His promises, until He welcomes us home which He earned through His death and resurrection.

Pastor: Saving God, sustain all who suffer and release those imprisoned by pain or disease.

People: Especially we pray in the name of the Present Savior, the Divine Physician, to be with all who have been affected and afflicted by the COVID Pandemic and other ailments.

Pastor: Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know Your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate Him who promised to be with us at all times in flesh and in Spirit, in Word and Sacrament—the Babe of Bethlehem, our blessed Lord and Savior.

ALL: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

People: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“O Sing of Christ”

LSB 362